Destruction of official documents in Rajgarh-Sehore Regional Rural Bank

2761. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that official documents were destroyed intentionally in the Ghogat Pur branch of Rajgarh-Sehore Regional Grameen Bank by some employees of the Bank to cover up an embezzlement/misappropriation of funds; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) NABARD has reported that two staff members of Ghogat Pur branch of Rajgarh-Sehore Grameen Bank have embezzled funds of the bank by manipulating the books of accounts and tried to conceal the embezzlement by destroying records and a part of the bank premises. NABARD has also reported that three employees have been suspended and Disciplinary action has been initiated as per rules by the bank. The bank has also registered a police case against them and case is in progress in Rajgarh and Jeerapur Court.

Reduction in customs duty on tyres

†2762. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industries has requested Government to include tyres in the list of 'Essential Commodities' taking it out of 'Luxury List' and to give relaxation in customs duty on tyres;

(b) whether the said Chamber has also requested Government to reduce existing customs duty on tyre, tube and flex from 32 per cent to 16 per cent; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction on the said requests of the Chamber?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

Defaulter Plantation companies in M.P.

2763. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the plantation companies that have collected funds from the public in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether Reserve Bank of India has directed these plantation companies to refund money to the investors;

(c) how many companies have refunded the money to the investors and how many have not refunded the money, company-wise and the amount due to them as on date; and

(d) whether SEBI has any mechanism to force the companies to refund the money to the investors alongwith the capital and interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) regulates collective investment schemes in terms of the SEBI (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999. In terms of these regulations, no person other than a Collective Investment management Company which has obtained a certificate of registration under the Regulations, can carry on or sponsor or launch a Collective Investment Scheme (CIS). Also, no existing CIS can launch any new scheme or raise money from the investors even under the existing schemes, unless a certificate of registration is granted to it under the said Regulations.

As on 6th August 2002, SEBI has received information from 660 entities including entities in Madhya Pradesh, which had reportedly mobilised about Rs. 2690 crore from investors. SEBI has launched criminal prosecution against several of these entities for failing to wind up their schemes and repay their investors in terms of the Regulations.